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Proper Skirt Length? Each Woman Must Answer for Herself—By Edith M. Burtis

HOW many inches from the ground must my skirts be in order that I may feel comfortably in style? This is the question in every woman's mind, whether she voices it or not, for every woman knows instinctively that the skirt length is a matter of extreme importance in the attainment of a smart appearance.

The question is not so much what is the fashionably correct length of skirt as it is what is the smartly correct length of skirt for the individual woman. Fashion can no longer successfully demand an arbitrary length of skirt and enjoy a general acceptance of the mode. The compulsory attitude fashion formerly maintained no longer exists, so the result is that the correct skirt length is practically a sliding scale of several lengths, depending upon various needs of figure requirements, personal opinion, the age and social position of the wearer, the design of

the dress and the occasion for which it is intended.

The present trend in skirt lengths can be divided into three classes, three lengths, as pictured here today—the conservatively smart length, the fashionably correct length and the ultra or extreme length.

The three lengths are shown, respectively, in the green taffeta dress with fillet apron tunic, the coat or redingote dress of ecru Canton crepe and fish-net fillet and the semitailored bead-trimmed dress of navy tricotine and black satin.

Is any other argument necessary to convince than that of concrete evidence, and have we not this evidence in the illustrations of dresses of the moment?

The present acceptance of fashion by the woman who aims to be ultra smart is largely conditional. Her skirts are of varying lengths to suit the occasion—as, for instance, her

street and dance dresses may be considerably shorter than her dinner and formal evening gowns.

Of one thing you may be sure—that the really clever, intelligent woman of fashion wears at all times a length of skirt that is truly becoming, conforming to fashion, yes, but never to the extent that this length of skirt may mar or destroy entirely the smart and pleasing ap-

moral effect of the short skirt, the uncorrected figure and the extravagant use of cosmetics, and well they may be, but it seems to me they approach these evils from the wrong standpoint.

The girls and women who resort to the extreme in fashion are not to be influenced by any moral influence. Most of them haven't brains or heart enough to understand any argument



Here we have the ultra or extreme skirt length of the moment—a dress simple and conservative in line, but far from simple in its trimming effect and anything but conservative in length. Blue tricotine heavily beaded in red over a foundation skirt of black satin is the material combination employed.



The conservatively smart skirt length is expressed in this charming afternoon frock of green taffeta with the new apron tunic effect and the bodice developed in tan fillet lace. The effective but simple hat is of tan straw braid with glycerine ostrich feathers and grapes of green georgette for trimming.

of posterity does not interest them; their thought is entirely of the present and of self.

The subject of too short skirts should be approached from the standpoint of beauty, and then it is probable you will see fewer of these skirts worn, except by those who really have legs and ankles worth showing, and it is indeed a small mind that can see nothing but evil in a thing of beauty, even if it is only the lower extremities of a human being.

If knock-kneed, bow-legged, skinny and piano-legged females could be convinced that these defects are unbecoming and should be concealed

and that no woman can be truly smart and fashionable with such ugliness exposed, we would no longer be distressed by the extremely short skirt length. But, you ask, how can you make a woman understand this?

Don't try to make a woman admit anything; but teach her by suggestion and comparison to recognize beauty and ugliness, how to enhance the one and conceal the other, and nine cases out of ten she'll not be long in making some radical changes in her appearance.

What we need, and need badly, is more knowledge of the beautiful—in line, color and allied details—and we

are acquiring this steadily, though slowly. Glance backward over the fashion of the last fifty years. You need go no further to reveal the fact that we have made some wonderful strides in the betterment of woman's dress; that fashion is gradually becoming less extreme, less undesirable.

Comfort and practicability are comparatively new developments. These are big factors in the short skirt fashion, and history of fashion will tell you that in their time the trailing skirts, both the hooped and bustle modes, were as bitterly censured, if not more so, than the short skirt of today.

This dress on redingote or coat lines portrays the fashionably correct skirt length and is developed in ecru-colored Canton crepe and heavy fish-net fillet lace in matching color.